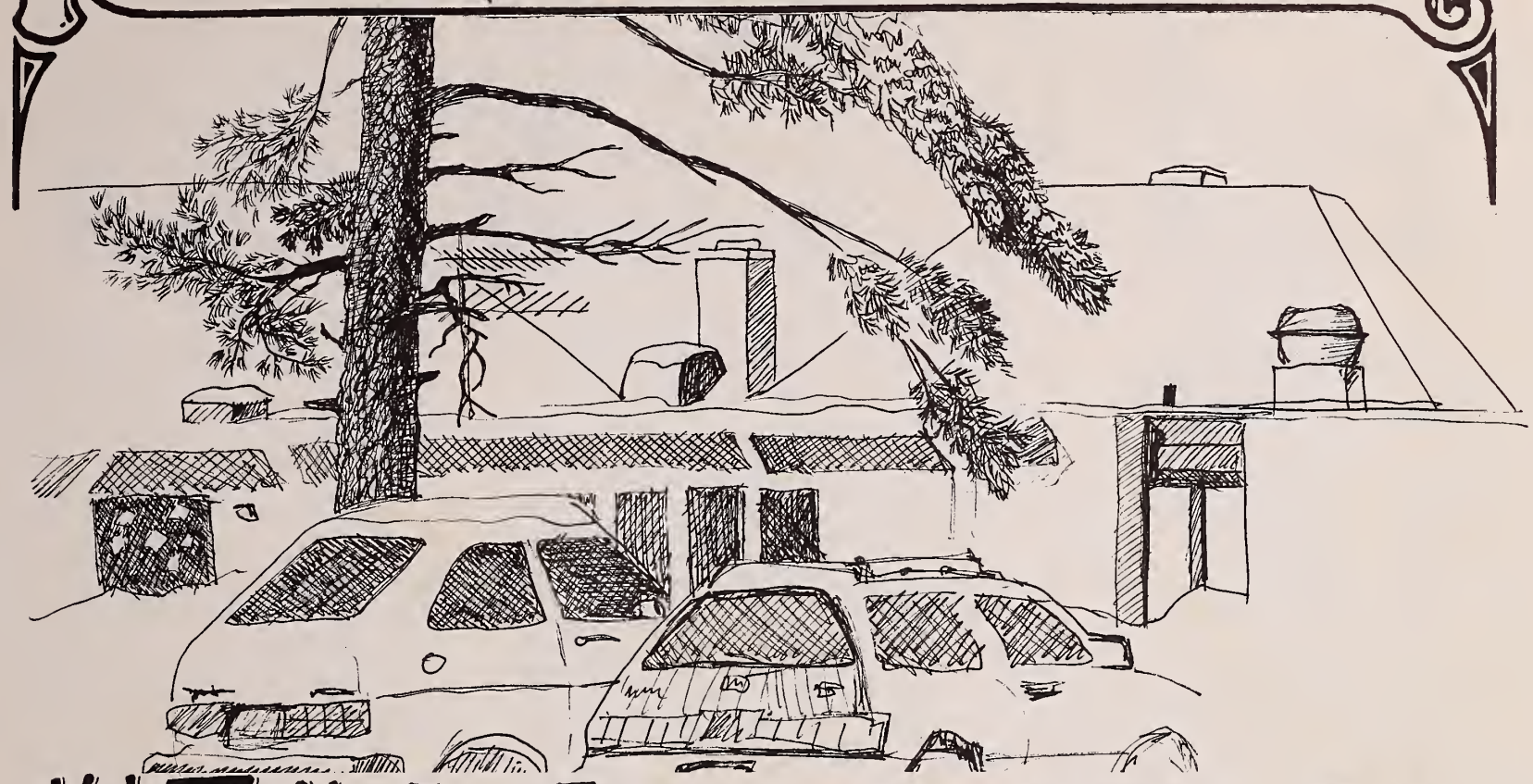
WENDELL POST



Vol. XII No. 5 February-March 1990 50¢

INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL IDOINE
=STEPPING DOWN GRACEFULLY=

Michael Idoine of the Wendell Selectboard has decided to step down at the end of his current term. So by Ma, 1990, we should have a new member to succeed him after six years of devoted service from 4 - 90 (two terms). He's been with four different selectboard teams: Ted Lewis on all, Jim Slavas, Jonathan von Ranson, and Margo Culley.

"There's been no discord on the board, and therefore the experience has been more gratifying On the surface Ted and I have different values; but we agree a lot about what we have done and that reflects similarity in our values."

"If there were three Margo Culley's on the board, we'd be in fine shape." There is a note of incredulity in his voice that no woman has been elected to the board previously.

Fond reflections about town government mainly focus on collaborative, cooperative, and amicable work accomplished among selectboard members. "We were able to delegate work to each other and to others," but Michael was not implying that all needs were filled. "We could still use 50% more help!"

The most progress he experienced was in encouraging, developing, and supporting other boards to work together and thus improve communications. I could tell he felt proud of the open nature of meetings, especially since communication has been abetted by the coping machine which flung Wendell into the current era.

"Better coordination of money management" is another progressive step. Tax collectors and treasurers don't have real popular jobs and Michael certainly empathizes with the essential nature of their work and supports their needs. "Ultimately, the town decided to hire a "Municipal Assistant," to provide the support required.

I was curious if there ever arose a personal conflict where his own politics conflicted with the requirements of the position. He spoke in a staid manner about such intorspective matters; and I could tell how seriously he felt about being "the selectman for the WHOLE town despite personal styles or differences." He felt "beholden" to get a just hearing for any person.

The phenomen that intrigued Michael was "unpredicatble alignments" in debates like the bedget. This concept seemed to please him, since it debunks familiar stereotypes about epole from Wendell. He noted that people don't line up politically according to pre-conceived ideas but mix according to the issues. His opinion about people was more affected by the work they helped accomplish than their attitudes.

In discussing the future, Michael referred to the "conundrum" a "rural bedroom community." A goal for him was to help "maintain the rural nature" and yet deal with "complex programs and a complex tax base." He would like to see "neighborhood developments and protection of open space" and has actively worked to this end. But Michael agrees this community needs to develop a way for residents to make money in town.

Envisioning our community working together voluntarily on some future projects, energy efficient town buildings, more accessible offices and town businesses prove Michael to be an idealist, an optomist. I think his dreams are prophetic.

continued pg. 7 →

THE TREE OR NOT THE TREE

A large pine tree in front of the Swift River School is the center of growing concern. The Swift River School Committee cast a majority vote at their December meeting to cut the tree down and erect a flag pole at that location. The tree currently enjoys good health, but there are fears that in the future this shallow rooted species may become a top-heavy liability risk. Questions that are being raised in the community about the tree-flag pole decision include project costs, multiple issues regarding preferential treatment being given to a flag pole over a tree, and differing aesthetic views.

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the Wendell Post

Vol. XII No. 5 Feb. and March 1990

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ROOTS AND BRANCHES

ROOTS AND BRANCHES

Protesting the use of tax dollars for war and diverting them to the couse of peace, Betsy Corner and Randy Kehler face possible loss of their home in Colrain due to the decision of the I.R.S. to seize it for back taxes and fines totalling $27,000. To witness our support and solidarity with them and with their neighbors, Bob and Pat, who face similar jeopardy, we residents of Wendell and vicinity have formed an Affinity Group, Roots and Branches by name, to forestall the seizure and defend these tax-refusers from eviction. Persons interested in joining and/or supporting us may notify Eileen Sauvageau, 544-3223. Persons wishing information about training for this action in non-violent civil disobedience may speak with Eileen, or phone Erin Freed at 413-773-7427 in the mornings.

by Charles T. Smith

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~Letters~

QUESTIONING THE FLAG

By a vote of 6 in favor - 1 opposed, the Swift River school committee decided at their December meeting to cut down a large pine tree in front of the school and to replace it with a flag pole flying the "American" flag.

I attended this meeting as a representative of the finance committee and so was present during the discussions. In the end, I believe the decision was based on the appropriateness of displaying the U.S. flag at our elementary school. Important issues such as ecology and finances as well as potential alternatives either were not given adequate consideration or overlooked. On the point of finances, I must admit to a lapse in responsibility. To be honest, I became caught up in the emotion of the moment.

Yet it is the issue of appropriateness that draws my attention. During the meeting, I experienced a strong gut feeling when Leonard Strauss, the Swift River principal, introduced the subject. I subsequently sensed a real lack of clarity in why I felt the way I did. Out of my disappointment in the lopsided vote, I realized I needed to better define and express my ideas about "Old Glory" and to see if they were actually pertinent to the education of our children. It also seems to me that the ramifications of the school committee's decision invites greater community participation. Thank goodness for the Post.

My feelings for the flag have done an about-face over time. These days, I bristle at the thought of what the flag has come to represent for me. As many of you know, I am a war tax resister. Although I am willing to pay my fair share in taxes, I am unwilling to contribute my labor to war and murder. As a consequence, this government threatens my livelihood and house. You can understand, perhaps, how my objection to U.S. government's policies and practices could be transferred into a resentment of the national emblem.

In sharp contrast, I also have fond memories associated with our national symbol. I recall growing up on and around military bases and feeling pride as I stood at attention next to my father as the U.S. flag was lowered daily promptly at 5:00p.m.

Unfortunately, upon reflection, those patriotic stirrings could have gotten me killed for no good reason. After high school, I was all too ready to respond to Uncle Sam's call to join the armed forces. I believed in the basic righteousness of the "American way," although I didn't have the faintest idea of what our government's policies were or what impact they created aroung the globe. From my observations, many young men and, increasingly, young women experience this blind faith in our government. And this blind faith, in my opinion, has its seeds in our educational system.

According to the literature, the United States flag stands for freedom, liberty, and justice. Are these ideals that our children should be educated with? Yes, of course. It also seems reasonable for our children to learn of the "stars and stripes" as a symbol of national identity, particularly in the context of this country being a member of a larger community. I personally enjoy, for example, the medal presentations at the Olympic games; watching the diversity of people and flags of the nations they represent.

But how easily is this spirit of cooperation transformed into confrontation. Why are we so quick to "rally around the flag" and do harm to "enemies" whom not so long before we embraced? Maybe there is a connection between this conditioning and the flag, especially in conjunction with the "Pledge of Allegiance."

Some effects of causes - take radiation or asbestos - are expressed in terms of long term exposure. I would argue that the long-term effect of the daily ritual of pledging to the flag is to create a complacent and uncritical citizenry. I offer the invasion of Panama as a perfect case of a fundamental wrong wich gained acceptance by people because the government couched the rationale for the operation with words like "just cause" and democracy.

Whether or not you agree with the policies of the U.S. government, I have to ask, if this nation truly stands for freedom, why our children are expected and encouraged from practically day one in their formal education to make a solemn oath of loyalty to the government? Shouldn't our children come to a place of respect for and loyalty to this country of their own free will and as a result of positive experiences? Instead, allegiance is drummed into our kids. The technique is known as propoganda and comes across as more totalitarian than democratic. Whether or not the "American" flag is to supplant that old pine tree at Swift River, we ought to question the educational value of the "Pledge of Allegiance" and take steps to ensure a balanced view of the meaning of the flag, between the ideals we hold so dear and the realities of national and international politics.

Stephen Broll

MISTAKE IS COSTING

To the Wendell Post:

When I started homesteading, it looked like a universal tool for fixing my personal life and lessening my part in the big problems at the level of society and the natural world as well.

It still looks that way, pretty much. I agonize relatively less over what life is about; and Susan and I feel quite content between fights (joke!). We are materially satisfied with what nature and a few thousand dollars of paid work provides; there isn't much I see in stores that I want to buy ... and only a little more in flea markets.

We made a mistake, though, in building our homestead. We built small and simple (20' x 21', no power, no plumbing, etc.) ... that part was okay ... but we built cheap. That mistake cost us. By failing to pay heavily for plywood, concrete truck deliveries, kiln dried 2 x 6's, joist hangers, etc., we seem to have offended the gods and are being visited with a surtax. The property tax on our house is $83 per square foot, when the average in Wendell is closer to $50. That's mostly because we used available free stone, trees, and labor, as far as I can see. It's unusual, and the unusual I'm told is worth money.

Well, you say, I deserve it. I complain too much?

You got me there!

Jonathan von Ranson

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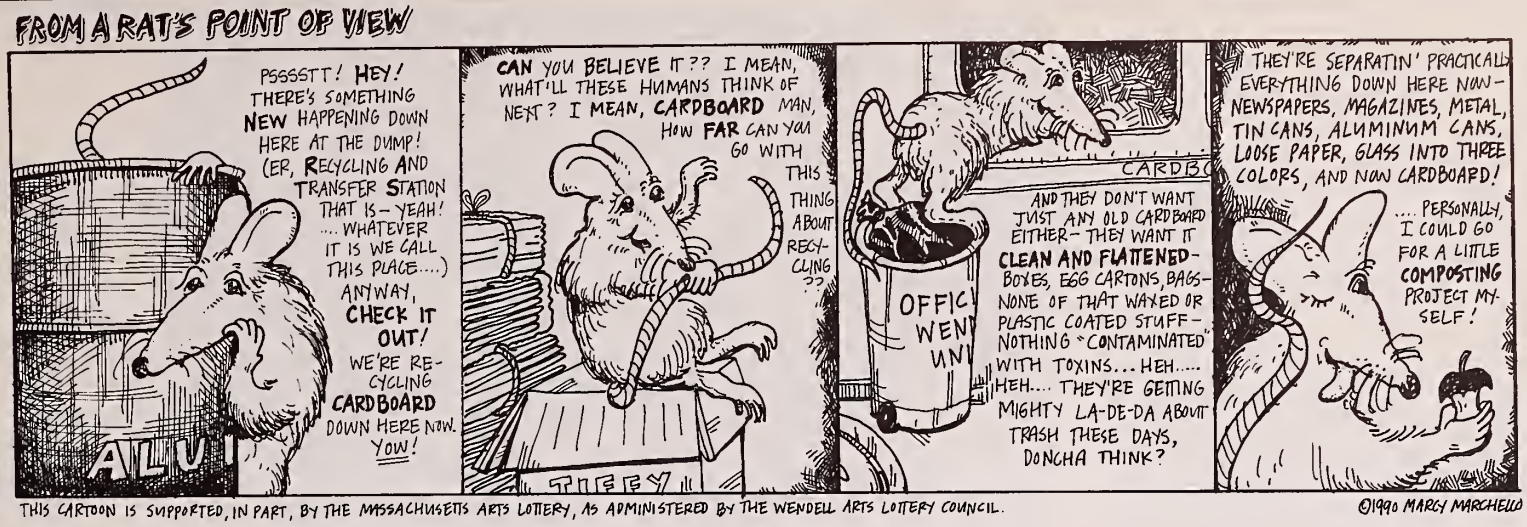
FROM A RAT'S POINT OF VIEW



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W.R.A.T.S. UPDATE

As many have noticed, Wendell recently received a "M.R.F." container, a huge green roll-off bin that now sits near the compactor. "M.R.F." stands for Materials Recylcing Facility- the new Springfield recyling center which has just come into operation. As one of the many communities, Wendell will now send down tin cans and cardboard paper products to the "M.R.F.".

Cardboard paper products? -Here's something new. Seperate out cardboard box containers/packaging of all types- like those stacks of cardboard boxes creeping up the cellar stairs, they can be dismantled and flattened and put right into the "M.R.F.". That's pretty important- "dismantle and flatten", so Wendell isn't shipping air down to Springfield. Even cereal boxes can be squashed.

Cardboard packaging comes in all forms, and is all acceptable except plasticized or waxed material (such as milk or juice cartons, frozen food boxes), and, anything contaminated with toxins (like paint or motor oil etc.) should not be put in the "M.R.F.".

Tin cans (and aluminum cans) are received at the W.R.A.T.S. in the old familiar way- rinsed and squashed and put in the 55 gal. drum (for tin cans) or the 30 gal. drum for aluminum. Labels are O.K.- you can leave them on.

Please crush your cans- at home is preferable because the town cannot be liable if someone gets hurt. If you're not able to crush your cans, please still sort them out, bring them in and speak with the attendant, s/he'll help.

On behalf of the W.R.A.T.S. attendants, and the Recycling Committee

Carlen Adams Rigrod

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY
=CHECK IT OUT=

New Hours!

Tuesday:	3-5 pm
Wednesday:	noon-8 pm
Saturday:	9:30-12:30
	1:30-3:30

Here is one thing I've noticed since working as a librarian in the center of our town. Once a Wendellite has crossed the threshold into the Wendell Free Library and has been given the full and proper orientation to our splendid collection, s/he becomes a confirmed patron of the place!

I have a sneaking suspicion that some of you who have yet to make the trip, think our books are old and musty, the lighting is dim, and cobwebs grow all over the librarians. NOT SO! As Kate Gilday said a while back as she browsed the new books display, 'I feel so at home here it's almost like another room in my own house."

In an effort to keep better track of library materials we have changed our record-keeping system. We're not going to be quite as loose as we used to be. Basically we would like to have items returned on, or relatively near their due date. This keeps favorite materials in more constant circulation. Most items can always be renewed. We have begun sending out overdue notices four weeks after an item is due. NO FINES are charged, except for late videos. If you receive a notice, don't panic, (we still love you), but don't simply start your morning fire with it either. A prompt response is appreciated. If you feel the mistake is ours, please let us know (bring the notice with you) so that we can further try to track down the missing item.

At the suggestion of many we've finally acquired a stuffed chair and set it by a window to make reading in the library more comfy. All suggestions on how to improve library services are appreciated. I'd especially like to hear from our senior citizens and Wendell teenagers, the two groups we see the least of.

There's an ongoing debate about the library location. Should it stay where it is or vie for part of the empty preschool in town? The preschool would give us more interior space plus much-needed bathrooms-- some people are more partial to the beautiful aesthetics of our current building. What's your input?? I'll write it up in my next installment. See you in the library. ---Rosie Heidkamp

FREEZE DAMAGES CENTER SCHOOL PIPES

Pipes, toilet tanks, a toilet bowl, and a pump were lost to freezing in the Center School building during the week between Christmas and New Year's. The damage was discovered by Highway Superintendent Danny Bacigalupo on Friday, December 29. The new furnaces, bought last year with direct citizen help, went out when fuel got too low in the tank.

At the request of Selectman Ted Lewis, the Highway Superintendent had been keeping an eye on the fuel level at the vacant building as deliveries were delayed due to a switchover to a new supplier. Even though Danny carefully monitored the level, he was fooled because the outlet pipe is apparently 13" above the bottom of the tank.

The Town's fuel is provided as part of the bidding process of School Union #28. It is intended as an economizing arrangement, but this time it didn't work. A key communication between the Town and the school adminstrative offices in Millers Falls didn't happen for months. Once she learned the identity and requirements of the new supplier, Town Accountant Janice Barrett rushed the paperwork out the week before Christmas, but it was not in time.

With Town officials unfamiliar with the idiosyncracies of the Center School, the problem was exacerbated. Delivery is automatic once it starts, but the paperwork isn't. "They (the school) bid it out, but we never get the information unless we request it," Janice said.

Inventory of the damage wasn't complete as this was written, and no estimate of its cost was available.

Jonathan von Ranson

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FREE BOX
=FILLING UP AND SPILLING OVER=

That's what the Free Box has been doing in the nine months since the new one appeared in Wendell. Thanks to all those who have put wearable clothes in the box, alot of good clothing is being re-used, both in Wendell and in nearby communities (we take the surplus to survival centers and the Salvation Army).

The eight of us who put together and now maintain the Free Box, however, have two pressing problems: 1) the amazing volume, and 2) the unwearables. We've set up an urgent meeting for ourselves to try to reduce the pressure these conditions create.

By changing our rotation schedule we may be able to forstall burn-out from the sheer volume. Currently, each one or two of us has been responsible--for a month at a time, twice a year--for thinning out and removing surplus (and unwearables) at a rate of many large trash-type bags per week. By the end of a month, even with help from friends, it's TOO MUCH! The suggestion I hear being favored is that we be sure to buddy up and do it a week at a time every month or so. I mean, we're all doing it because we like checking out what's there and seeing what we --or our friends-- might use, so we're certainly going to have our hands in there, sooner than every six months, anyway!

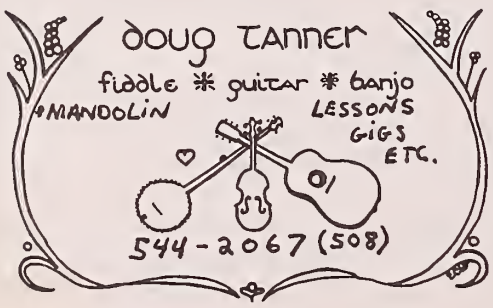
The problem of unwearables is different and difficult. A polite notice listing what's appropriate--clean clothes in good condition and what to do with other items--is posted inside one of the doors. There have been some torn and/or dirty clothes and some non-clothing items put in from the beginning. For a while we could shrug this off, albeit having to cart them to the WRATS ourselves, BUT either our tolerance has decreased or there really has been a significant increase in RAGS and other unwearable items. It has occurred to us that an increase in "dumping" in the Free Box may be related to people in Wendell, as elsewhere, being expected to pay more of the real cost of doing something with what we no longer use, i.e., the new per bag charge at the WRATS.

As a former, but recent member of the Recycling Group, I know that there is lots of hard work that is moving along to have the WRATS set up so that we'll have shed space there to take and find re-usable household items and that we'll have a way to pass on our rags where they can be used. Meanwhile, though, the Free Box movers-and-sorters have to lug the stuff to the WRATS and the town (that's us) has to pay for it to be buried elsewhere. (Note: We stopped dumping rags and too-tired sneakers on the Salvation Army after we got what seemed to be reliable word that they, in turn, would have to pay to pass them on.)

So, this is a consciousness-raiser to nudge readers to figure out ways to be responsible for unwearables ourselves--reuse them, pass them on directly to someone else, or take them with our other stuff to the WRATS.

This is also an invitation: if you, too, like going through the Free Box for what you might find, you are welcome to join us. We do have exhuberant potlucks at our infrequent meetings.

Dor (Dorothy Thompson)
544-8961



Dawn Marie Walsh
Ben Santucci
Lily Smallidge
Joshua Young
Tavi Wings
Aubry Koeler
beating drums to an African Folk Song.

BACKWOODS E.M.T.

On January 13 a workshop on backwoods emergency medical treatment was held at the woodsy Mormon Hollow compound of Rosie Heidcamp. It was led by Robert Hurwitz who is studying Larry Buell's "Outdoor Leadership Training" at G.C.C., a comprehensive and intensive course dealing with many wilderness and survival skills.

The workshop on the 13th was attended by eleven Wendellites and one Greenfielder. Robert covered many emergencies that could occur in daily rural living, such as animal or insect bites, fractures, serious lacerations, and choking. He also gave instructions for frostbite and hypothermia. He reviewed the ABC's of checking an accident victim, rescue breathing and CPR (Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation). The participants practiced CPR and how to fix cloth bandages on various wounds.

There were a few no-nos that really made an impression on all of us. One was never to use a tourniquet on a limb to stop bleeding (even in the case of amputation) unless it is a last resort. Rather, apply pressure directly to the open wound. It seems with the tourniquet, toxins in the blood accumulate in the extremity which then contaminate the body when the tourniquet is removed, even causing loss of the extremity in some cases. Another no-no: removing an impaled object, such as a pencil from an eyeball; or rubbing a frostbitten area; or washing an open skull or eyeball wound (because of the constitution of the body fluids there.).

We were led in a simulated rescue of a fallen cross country skier outdoors, going through the ABC's, practicing accident-side manners, quick body exam, splinting a fractured leg using available materials (ski pole), and evacuating the "patient."

A lot of material was covered, and many of us learned just how much we don't know. "I want to be careful not to be so wrapped up in technicalities that I lose my common sense," one participant worried. Another first aid learner expressed an excited feeling that what we had been learning was very empowering.

We all felt very privileged to have this workshop right here in Wendell.

Susan Dunlany

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SWIFT RIVER PRESCHOOL

December 18, 1989

The four year olds, at the Swift River Preschool in New Salem recently hosted a special celebration entitled "This World is Our World". The play directed by teachers, Janet DuCharme and Marcelle Feltman, and teacher-aide Mez Davis, highlighted the children in skits involving unique traditions in other countries. Everyone joined together in singing "It's a Small, Small World" during the finale, The performance was enjoyed by a large audience of parents, siblings and friends.

Following the show, everyone had a chance to sample a variety of foods prepared by the parents of preschoolers for the pot lunch brunch. It has become a tradition at the Swift River Preschool for the four year olds to present two plays during the school year, one held in the fall or before vacation in December and one before school lets out in June. The pot luck brunch, which always follows each of these performances, has given parents, teachers, children and friends a wonderful opportunity to become better acquainted in an informal atmosphere.

The Swift River Preschool has programs for both three and four year olds residing in the towns of Wendell and New Salem. The school moved into a beautiful new building this fall which is connected to the Swift River School (K-6 grades) on Wendell Road in New Salem.

Audrey Broll, Brendan Walsh, Jamison Taupier
Breaking the pinata

MURDER IN MONTREAL

Killing women, killing nature: Hollant, VT: Many species in the animal kingdom have unique characteristics that set them apart from other species, something aside from their genetic make-up that causes other creatures to take pause and notice. Among human beings, I believe it is the thought and energy with which we kill each other that sets us apart from any other creature on Earth. I have never witnessed one human being killing another, but I am terribly accustomed to it. We do it every minute of every day in every country, and somebody is always there to tell me about it. I have stopped listening as closely as I once did, a natural defense mechanism, I suppose, to keep me from becoming so callous and hardened toward life all around us. But my defenses failed a few weeks ago when somebody in Montreal told me about the day's killings. The Killer's motive shook me in a way that no murder ever has.

A man killed women, at random, because they were women. I remember hearing the news and stopping, listening closely, sinking inside. Give me a motive aside from their sex. Put these women in a category I can comprehend; tell me they were players in organized crime. Don't tell me that our society has become so misogynous that we are killing women in classrooms.

I cried like a man: just a little on the outside, much more on the inside.

I am not at all sure what it must be like to fear men on a daily basis, but perhaps the single greatest collective failure of men in our society is the tragic fact that women must fear us. They feel it when entering a dark apartment, when fumbling for keys in a night-time parking lot, or when walking on a beautiful summer day past a group of idle, watching men, however harmless their intentions might be. I don't know those fears, but I should; all men should.

I have been trying to see more clearly our masculine world through my wife's eyes, especially since the Montreal tragedy. I have too easily dismissed her fears of staying alone at night in our rural home. I have too easily lost my patience when, while traveling, she refuses to camp in what I perceive as a perfectly safe place. My world and her world are not one; she is a prisoner of unknown footsteps on a quiet portions of a college campus; a prisoner of men that whistle as she passes; a prisoner of the makers and consumers of war toys (for children and the Pentagon), violent sexist films and television, all of which encourage a world where women fear men.

It is the same behavior in men which women fear, that our environment and all other species also fear: Rape, physical and phychological bondage, and murdering the young, as in Montreal. Is it not the same behavior that drives a man to clearcut a forest and rape a woman? Domination, greed, callousness towards other life and the desire to only take without giving are present in each case; only the tools are different. Both victims can never truly be replanted.

I am not indicting all men nor excusing all women for the fear and destruction in our world. There are exceptions to every rule. Margaret Thatcher, comrade in arms with Reagan and now Bush, always helps me to keep things in perspective. And all of the shaken men who phoned CBS radio to express their grief, sympathy, frustration and anger after the shooting, also helps me to see the shades of gray in a black and white world.

But the Montreal tragedy was not an "isolated incident" as many are fond of saying. To believe that is to embody isolation. The man who walked into a classroom and murdered women because they were women, was a living, breathing product of the society around him in many ways we cannot measure. He represents an overt example of the more subtle violence that occurs toward women everyday. Most importantly for men, he represents a tomb of misconceptions and behaviors toward women and nature, on whose grave we should dance.

Robert Streeter
Holland, Vermont

AFTER MAPLE'S FLOW

January's thaw has come and gone; new snow covers the town as I write of a taste of Spring. The pile of garden catalogs grows with each return trip from the Post Office, and with it thoughts of buds opening, seedlings growing and sap flowing. Each spring we tap a few maples, hanging our gallon cider jugs out to catch what our children, when younger called "sweet tree water". A daily visit to each tree collecting (and tasting) the previous day's gift keeps us in touch with the small steps of spring's return. The taste is sweet; moreover it hints of early spring's dance- the flow of life returning, rising thru warm days, returning to earth as night's chill settles. In gathering and using the "sweet tree water" I feel a part of the dance, of the vital flow, the surge of reawakening. And in a small way I sense a connection with those, past and present, who have known the taste and enjoyed tapping into another source of Nature's bounty.

As I love to dance, it was never without hesitation that I would pull the taps at the sugaring season's end. So it was with delight that I learned of the Sweet Birch (Betula lenta) also known as Black Birch or Cherry Birch, alluding to the color of it's bark. These trees can be tapped a month after the Maples, continuing a source of sweet sap to enjoy. Break off a twig- if there is an unmistakable scent of wintergreen, you have the right tree.

Choose Sweet Birches at least six inches in diameter and tap on the south side of the tree, as with sugar maples. We also tap the Yellow Birch whose sap is less sweet but delicious. Early in their season the birches pour forth their mineral rich sap, able to fill gallon jugs in an hour or two! Later in the season the flow quiets as the pace in the garden begins to liven up. Be sure to wood-plug the holes at the season's end.

We drink the sap fresh from the tree, use it in place of drinking water in cooking and baking, and prepare a sweet, soothing tea tasting of wintergreen. To brew a pot, simply prune off a small branch, chopping the twigs and bark into small pieces. Heat sap or water just under boiling (boiling destroys the delicious wintergreen flavor as well as the vitamin content of the tea). Add the birch pieces and steep 10-15 minutes. Strain and sweeten if you wish; we enjoy it as is. According to Joan Richardson, author of Wild Edible Plants of New England,... "the birch reportedly yields good amounts of vitamins A,C,E,B-1 and B-2 as well as many minerals absorbed from the rich forest floor.

This abundant spring tonic also makes a delicious beverage- birch beer- my favorite soda on a hot summer's day. Perhaps this is the year we make our own. Here is the recipe we'll try; Add two quarts birch twig ends and bark shavings to three gallons sap. Simmer for 30 minutes. Strain the liquid, then add five pounds of sugar (or half that amount of honey) and a package of dry yeast. Cover this brew in a crock and let sit for three weeks. It will bubble and brew. Skim and strain, then siphon into bottles. Add half a teaspoon sugar or honey to each bottle you fill, cap each tightly, and wait a few weeks before tasting. Enjoy!

From the volitile wintergreen oil, identical in the Sweet Birch bark and wintergreen (or checkerberry) leaves, pharmacists can distill methyl salicylate, a natural forerunner to aspirin. This aspirin-like component helps explain the ability of Wintergreen and Sweet Birch to reduce the pain and inflammation in acute rheumatism, and it's external use as a liniment for treating lumbago and sciatica. There is evidence that the oil applied externally is also good for treating skin parasites such as scabies and fleas.

We have successfully used the tea of wintergreen or sweet birch to help relieve minor headache pain and tension, as well as the oil for treating tight muscles. There is a warming, penetrating essence to this oil, along with a delightful scent.

In the Celtic Wheel of the Year, the Birch tree is honored as the New Year begins; at the first New Moon after the Winter Solstice. This is a time of bare existence, of seeing the essence of things, and of new beginnings. The Celtic name for Birch is Beth, Birth, and the Celts felt it was important to lay their newborns in a cradle shaped of birch wood- no doubt to ensure a favorable start in life.

New beginnings are what I feel in the sap flowing days, catching life's essence in a bottle, from a tap in a tree-from the earth to you and me- sweet and clear and tasting of spring!

And if you tap... share that sap... and remember to thank those trees! Here's hoping for a great flow!

Kate Gilday

Herb, Wild Edible, and Basketry classes at THE HERB FIELD will start up once more in April. For more information call Kate at 544-2121. Apprenticeship program in 8 week commitments (one day a week) also beginning.

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Commercial Photography
Wendell Ma. 544-3529
Edward Judice 544-2739

COUNTRY STORE EXPANDS

You all have been hearing and seeing lots happening outside the Country Store with the building of an addition and enlargement of the parking lot. BUT ... have you been inside the store lately? The building addition meant more space inside the store as well as space for the Post Office. There are five departments designed to meet your first/last minute shopping needs.

First there is gas and motor oil for your car, chain saw or small engine.

Second there is liquor with an expanded selection of wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages.

Third there is a grocery. New shelving has given us space to provide a wider selection of items such as canned foods, Blue Seal animal feeds, dog and cat food, bird seed, chain saw files, work gloves, clothing items, soda, chips, ice cream, and a variety of meats, cheese, and dairy items. You can buy fresh homemade breads and pastries at our bakery counter every Saturday.

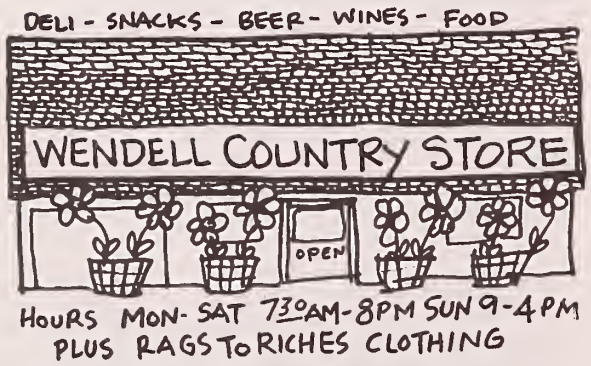
Fourth there is video rental. VHS movie tapes can be rented for $2.25 per day. There is no club to join, but you must be 18 years of age. The selection of movies is changed every two weeks. We will be happy to take any suggestions on the kind of movies you and your family enjoy.

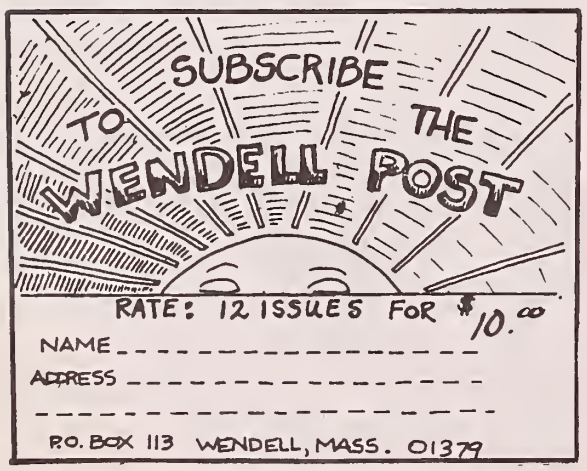
Fifth there is the "cafe" where full breakfasts and luncheon specials are served. Homemade soups, hot sandwiches, pasta dishes, subs, and tofu-burgers are served all day. Most of the desserts are homemade, too. We have tried to choose distributors that give us good prices so we can provide items at reasonable prices.

We are open 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturda and on Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Come on in and check us out!

Owner - Cheryl Perkins
Staff - Candy
Nancy
Raeann
Penny
April
Lola
Helen
Billie Sue
Suzanne





THE WENDELL CHURCH

Everybody shares a vision of world harmony and peaceful co-existence with one another. Religion has played an important role in either refueling a society's inspiration toward this cause or in some cases, in its own name, destroying it.

Today, religion is less and less traditional. Its authorities and people have woven the various social and political aspirations into ritual and practice although some denominations are more accepting of this than others. Generally, today, one can go to one church and sing, witness healings, and then go to another and partake in a traditional Mass or Service -it's all a lot more open now with a blending of different denominations--not like my day when the Catholics were Catholics on one side and the Protestants were on the other side of the street, and one group never spoke to the other.

I'm delighted to say that our Congregational Church in Wendell combines liturgy, song, service, and a world peace aspirant, Reverend Carol Ann Camp. Rev. Camp is a minister with the United Church of Christ which formed as a result of a merge of the Congregational Church and the Evangelical Reform Church. During my interview with Rev. Camp, I learned some of the attributes of the United Church of Christ. Its most appealing feature, while not completely bucking tradition is that it offers more of a socio-political awareness to the faithful in a time when values are changing. Instead of a single presiding figure, as the Pope is in the Catholic Church, the United Church of Christ allows both clergy and congregation more flexibility which has served to keep up with social changes and to encourage loyalty to the faith.

With a warm smile, Rev. Camp explains that the United Church of Christ is more politically active and today there are more women in the clergy. "It is better in the United Church of Christ," says Rev. Camp, "Each church is autonomous. In the Catholic Church it is more difficult because even though a woman gets her degree, she has to wait to be admitted until the Pope decides." The issue of women in the clergy has vascillated in the Vatican, but as of today no women clergy exist in the Catholic Church. Rev. Camp explained more,"In places like Central America, women act as priests even though they are not sanctioned by the system. They keep the faith rolling. Women who are trying to do the work of pastor, mother, and wife find it overwhelming and men don't have as much of a problem."

Q: What prompted you to become a minister?
Rev. Camp: "On one hand, I couldn't help it. Both my parents were ministers. I knew it was my calling. I kept putting it away, then I gave in. Then there's the political piece. It's one of the best ways to change the church and it was also to get more women into the system. Things can get out of balance."

Q: What are your goals for the services in Wendell?
Rev. Camp: "We do a variety of things... meditation, singing, activities connected with the Bible. I'm more of a facilitator. People from different backgrounds want the church to be a spiritual center. There are those who are more New Age. I try to keep it eclectic. There's something in the Christian message, like love and justice. No one can disagree with it.

Q: Do you believe in reincarnation?
Rev. Camp: I believe in past lives.

Q: What is your personal goal for the Wendell Church?
Rev. Camp: My personal goal is to share paths and journeys and to follow my own lessons.

Q: What is your concept of God?
Rev. Camp: "My image of God is like a silver ribbon that starts in infinity, like breath, and goes to infinity. Then, along the ribbon, is all of humanity lined up in time and space both historically and at the present..the ribbon flows in and out of all the people. The silver light ribbon is like God. It's internal-like inner light. It's part of all of us. We connect with the Christ piece. At the same time there's something more than all of us. I can't tell you what it is exactly. I call it Creative Life Force, God. It's more than me."

The Wendell Congregational Church is open for Services every Sunday at noon. All are invited to attend.

-by Dana Nielson

HOSPITAL EXPLORER POST

A Medical Explorer Post has been launched at Athol Memorial Hospital and is now open to young men and women ages 14 through 20, interested in careers in all aspects of health care, including medicine, nursing, laboratory, dietary and hospital administration.

Exploring is a division of the Boy Scouts of America. Further information is available from Judy Howland at Athol Memorial Hospital (249-3511) or at her home (249-7654).

A new 48-page information booklet entitled "An Introduction to Athol Memorial Hospital" has been issued by the hospital's public relations department. The boolket contains information on all hospital services and includes a directory of staff physicians and clinic sub-specialty physicians.

Interested persons may obtain a free copy by picking one up in the hospital lobby or contacting the public relations department a 249-3511 Ext. 188.

Other recent publications include an information card featuring emergency room services and a vinyl sticker containing the emergency telephone mumber of QuabbinCare Ambulance. Publication of the evergency room card was sponsored by the Athol-Clinton Co-operative Bank as a public service.

FIRE LOG

10/21/89	Cellar pumping. Cooleyville Rd.
10/25/89	Chimney fire. Jennison Rd.
11/14/89	Smoke investigation.
12/5/89	Smoke investigation. Wendell Depot Rd.
10/10/89	Chimney fire. Locks Hill Rd.
10/19/89	Mutual aid to Millers Falls.

LAND TRANSFERS

Helen D. Wirth to Lewis H. Starkey, Jr. and Lewis H. Starkey III - East side to West Road - 4.8010 acres - 9/29/89

Franklin W. Dorman to Jan M. Stiefel & Gretchen C. Smith - South side to Montague Road - 11.736 acres and buildings - 10/27/89

James A. Smith & Paul J. Smith to Cheri J. Martinez - South side to Montague Road - 2.340 acres and buildings - 11/1/89

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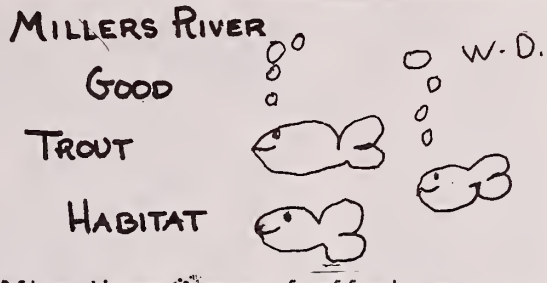
MILLER'S RIVER MONITERING PROJECT

A bright fluorescent pink substance discovered staining large sections of ice on the Millers river in Athol on Friday January 19 by one of the Millers River Monitoring Project's citizen river monitors is being investigated by the Strike Force of the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection, (formally The Dept. of Environmental Quality Engineering). The DEP crew responded immediately with a field team who took samples of the impacted ice and foam with the aid of Trout Unlimited member Don Pugh of Wendell who waded out into the turbulent water to collect the samples. The samples have been sent to state laboratories for analysis.

The location of the first noticeable evidence of the possible pollution occurred immediately below what is known as the "Manufacturing Dam" upstream of any possible industrial sources in the Athol area. Upriver from the dam lies more than six miles of the remote, undeveloped and inaccessible area of the river known as the Bears Den Athol Conservation Area. This precludes any possibility that the contamination source originated in the Athol area unless it was discharged from a tank truck which had access to the river above the dam.

The Millers River Monitoring Project is a citizens volunteer watchdog group founded and supported by the Millers River Watershed Council, and The Deerfield/Millers Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

The DEP and the Millers River Monitoring Project are very interested in any information which may help identify the substance or it's source. Anyone with information please call: Myron Becker 544-2086 or the DEP Strike Force at 617 556 1000.



After three years of effort, a coalition of the Millers River Watershed Council, The Connecticut River Watershed Council and the Deerfield/Millers chapter of Trout Unlimited have succeeded in convincing Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's chief fisheries biologist that the Millers is a very viable trout habitat and worthy of special consideration in its fisheries management.

Historically a very popular fishing spot, the river was condemned as uninhabitable by the DFW in the early sixties due to extreme pollution. After years of effort by the M. R. Watershed Council to hound the powers that be into installing wastewater treatment facilities, the river was declared fit for trout the state in 1983. Then in '86 PCBs (polychloro biphinols, possible carcinogens) were discovered in fish flesh samples taken from the river and stocking was summarily discontinued. The environmental organizations, realizing that a river unfished is a river unprotected from further pollution, immediately petitioned DFW to continue stocking.

On other rivers with similar problems, notably the Hoositonic in Connecticut, special "no kill" or catch and release regulations have been very successfully put in place. The rational is that whereas PCBs do not make the river a dangerous place for the fish to live (it seems not to bother them at all), and avid anglers often fish only for the challenge rather than the food, (most "serious" trout fisherfolks tend to release most of their catch), it makes most sense to manage the river for catch and release. The problem was that the scientists were not convinced that the Millers was capable of "holding over" a sizable enough population of trout to make the special regs "politically feasible" ie. that it could be construed as an extravagant waste of fishing licence revenue.

To solve the question T.U. and the state conducted an experiment which involved the marking of 750 healthy brown trout from the Montague hatchery and stocking them on May 23 in the Millers. The study, administered by Wendell resident Don Pugh used a combination of angler surveys, electro-fishing (trout are temporarily stunned by electric current, counted and revived), and scuba divers to conclusively prove that the trout did very well thank you. By October they were not only still alive but had gained weight and were very healthy.

The survey included the results from 24 anglers who made 164 fishing trips to compile 382.5 hours on two sections of the Millers; one section in the "Bears Den" area in upper Athol and So. Royalston and the main area in Wendell Depot area (from the Holtshire Rd. Bridge down to the pool above the Erving Paper broken dam). A total of 498 trout were caught and released.

The electro fishing conducted on Sept. 13 by Chief Fisheries Biologist Pete Oatis, and T.U. members including Kathy Becker and Don Pugh also verified that not only were the marked hatchery fish still there but a significant number of evidently wild (born in the river) brown trout also resident. That wild fish are well distributed throughout the Wendell sections of the Millers obviates the survivability of trout in the river. In a recent meeting with T.U. Pete Oatis agreed to support the environmentalists request for special consideration for our "home" river. Now it's up to the Fisheries and Wildlife board to make it a regulation.

What this all will mean is that fishing in the Millers will be catch and release only with artificial lures or flies (bait caught fish tend to get hooked too deeply and die) probably starting in 1991, and that the Millers will be frequented by the kind of anglers who appreciate the ecological quality of the river and will not put up with the rampant abuse that the river has suffered in the past.

AIKIDO CLUB OF WENDELL

This January at the Swift River School the first classes in the art of Aikido were held. The class is geared to beginners and is open to new members.

Aikido, meaning "The way of harmony or peace", was developed by Morihei Uyeshiba in Japan approximately 65 years ago so it is a relatively new martial art.

There are no kicks or strikes in Aikido, it is a defensive art form. The main difference that Aikido has from other art forms is its attitude of wanting to neutralize an aggressor and render them harmless, without causing harm or animosity. In order to achieve this goal, a certain level of skill is necessary and equally important is the ethical attitude of wanting to harmonize in the first place.

During these classes we will be going over techniques and learning together the philosophy of Aikido.

The class meets on Tuesday nights from 6:00 to 7:30, at the Swift River School gym. The cost is $2.00 per class. For registration call Ria McRae at 544-2226.

SELECTMAN IDOINE cont.

In offering the rationale as to why he was not running again, he called the job "mind consuming." Does this imply there's no more to consume or is it being consumed elsewhere? I"ll let Michael ponder that one in depth while I remind readers he is enrolled in a Masters Program studying regional planning.

I say publicly a huge, resounding "Thanks!" from all your constituents. While some were too preoccupied to offer it themselves, others were too shy. But I think some will thank you in person as you'll never be too far from the core.

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SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Tues. Dec. 5th & Wed. Dec. 13th

In all 25 articles came before the Town of these #18, and #22 were passed over. The articles that remained were all passed. They concerned a wide range of topics: the new Town Barn, road projects and an authorization to purchase and equip a new tanker for the Fire Department; school appropriations; prior bills to be paid; amendments to the Zoning Bylaw; authorization of a recycling project with the Town of Orange; and other money transactions. This brief review can serve to show the order in which the acts will be covered here.

TOWN BARN, etc.: The first Article authorized to accept and spend $38,125 for chapter 90-type road construction. Article 4 accepted up to $13,500 from the Town of Erving, partially covering engineering costs of rehabilitating the iron bridge over the Millers River at Farley. Article 9 appropriated up to $15,000 from surplus revenue to purchase new overhead doors for the new Town Barn. Also from surplus revenue, Article 17 voted up to $650 for plans for the grease trap at the new Town Barn. Under Article 8 surplus revenue was tapped to the tune of $4,265 to equip the new fire department tanker, while Article 7 deleted the same sum from prior appropriations.

SCHOOL SPENDING: Articles 5 & 6 cover $17,000 for the School Project loan for the expansion and rehabilitation of the Swift River School, and for the pre-school. Seemingly part of this could have been circumvented by more effective management by the school bureaucracy. Under Article 11, $8,584 was taken from surplus revenue to cover the special education and transport needs of a profoundly deaf 11-year-old student.

VARIOUS BILLS: I have referred to a surplus of revenue from which many expenses have been met, and such funds ($180,000 or so) result from collections of unpaid back taxes, as well as economies of various sorts. Article 2 appropriated $3,167 to cover the Treasurer's expense of tax taking. Article 3 covered legal fees attendant upon the closing of the Wolfe property. Article 12 spent $14,400 to balance overlay deficits of past year.

ZONING AMENDMENTS: Article 13 authorizes special permits for guest cabins, one of which "may be located on any approved building lot of six or more acres." According to unofficial recollections, the last five words were deleted by a vote of 17-10, but the official copy of the acts of the meeting from the office of the Town Clerk leaves them in, to my personal satisfaction. Article 14 adds the words "Guest Cabin" to the list of residential uses by special permit of the Planning Board. Article 15 disallows permanent mobile homes in the same list. Article 16 encourages cluster zoning plans at the discretion of the Planning Board.

RECYCLING PROJECT: Under Article 19 we voted to accept a special grant from the Mass. Small Cities Program, and under Article 20 we voted to join with the Town of Orange with whom we share the grant funds. Wendell's share is said to be 10%, or around $89,000. The grant will further the recycling efforts already underway in Wendell, and enable us to upgrade our facilities.

OTHER TRANSACTIONS: Article 10 appropriated $2,500 from surplus revenue to cover Wendell's contribution to the Orange Ambulange Service. Article 21 authorized up to $3,000 for the purpose of funding a drainage system at the Public Library. Under Articles 23 and 24 funds from surplus revenue were transferred to the Reserve Fund and the Capital Stabilization Fund. The Reserve Fund covers spending in excess of budget by Town departments. The latter attempts to stabilize the tax rate by establishing a fund for capital expenditures in advance.

Signed, Charles Thompson Smith

POST NEEDLES ITSELF - AND GETS "NEEDLED"

The January 13th Full Moon Coffeehouse featured the many talents of Nat Needle. During his ets, Nat backed up the singing of some 15 of his devoted fifth graders at Swift River, gigged with local musicians, charmed an overflow audience while philosophizing and joking, and played piano and sang songs composed by himself and others.

The magic of the Full Moon Coffeehouse struck many times, including when Emcee Josh Dostis, following the Fickle Finger (a sequined glove with a life of its own, held aloft like a periscope), picked a young man out of the audience and led him to the stage and offered him a microphone.

The "victim," who turned out to be a staff member of the Insight Meditation Center in Worcester, said with captivating calmness it felt "kind of entertaining" to be around folks "who do a lot of talking." During a recent three-month sitting, he said, he and his fellow meditators had learned only three items of news: the crumbling of the Berlin Wall, the U.S. invasion of Panama, and the release of Bob Dylan's latest album. His observations and demeanor were received by the audience as a gift, and he got a warm ovation.

Proceeds of the evening benefitted the Wendell Post. The Post staff performed a skit and sang a spoof of its editorial meetings. One of its props--a table with dishes-- crashed to the floor during the song, so the words are reprinted here.

Wendell Post Skit & Song
for Jan. 13 Full Moon Coffeehouse

(To the tune of
"Surrey with the Fringe on Top")

First Selectman Comstock is leaving
'Cause his late First Lady he's grieving
Since she made her last trip weaving
Up the Depot Hill.

Finance Chairman Pringle's in trouble.
He was seen with a three-day stubble
Parked in the arms of a Bo Derek double
By the paper mill.

The school budget's loaded with pork & fat,
The bridges all need attention.
The tech school bus won't start again
(There's talk of monkey wrenchin'.)

Alice Munson's planning a hoedown,
But gentlemen had better not go down
Unless they're ready to handle a showdown
Of the woman kind.

The state has welched; the town never reckoned.
We'd all enlist if somebody beckoned
For Daniel Shay's Rebellion the Second
It's secession time.

I hear they's zoning out mother-in-laws
And them property tax refusers.
You can't drink the water from the Town Hall tap
And a baby was born in the cruiser.

OK, all this has been quite amusing,
But don't you think it's time we were choosing
What the Post can print without losing
Any readership?

For the pretty little paper with "Wen-dell" on top.

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DINING OUT NEARBY

GO NORTH FOR CLOSE EATS; EAST AND WEST

It's 8pm. Starving hungry? Tired? Don't want to make dinner? Oh, and the Country Store just closed! There may not even be sidewalks to roll up when the town shuts down at night, but down the hill and over the river is good international fare within a five minute drive from the Depot. Go north, young 'un, to the old Indian trail, Rt. 2A. Now you've got two choices, left to Erving, right to Orange. Either way is a restaurant with dinner waiting, both have good food, both ethnic, both independent family owned and operated, and best of all, both inexpensive, close by and open every day and night till 10PM.

Let's head east first. About two miles down the trail you'll come to King Sing. In the old Drum's third incarnation as a Chinese restaurant you'll find the quintessential family run operation owned by partners Jack Lee and his friend Seng Yu. It is further staffed by Jack's wife Wendy, with the help of Jack,s father, two ethnic Chinese fellows from Viet Nam, occasionally Seng's wife Sandy, and a waitperson from Orange. Jack manages the dining room and Seng the kitchen, although Jack can and does sometimes cook. They hail from the Canton region of Mainland China and are versatile in the cooking styles of the Hunan and Szechuan provinces as well as their home style. Jack arrived in the U.S. about 12 years ago, did stints as a waiter, dishwasher, cook, manager, and owned another restaurant in Revere for a short while. He found King Sing in the classifieds of a Boston Chinese news paper. Never having heard of Orange, he checked it out and bought it six months ago. They didn't change the name, but now worry that people may think that it's under the same ownership as before. "It's too late to change the name now" says Jack. All live together in Orange and can often be seen having breakfast at Deckers in the mornings. Jack and Wendy lead a busy life, also owning and maintaining a home in Quincy where their two young children live during the week with their grandmother. Seng and Sandy also have two little ones.

In our conversation with Jack it became evident that Jack has strong beliefs about what a restaurant should be and about food, customers, health and his own goals. "I'm not a marketing expert. I do the best I can from my feelings. We try to do the best food to keep the customers. If people come and eat and like it they will come back. Already many people come back. Some come from Leominister, Gardner and Winchester (N.H.) and say 'oh your food is so excellent'. I listen to customers. When I ask 'how is the meal' I really want to know. I like the customer's suggestions, I will remember them. If it's good food they will tell their friends, so for me, if you lose one customer you lose a millionaire! I have a lot of good customers. It (running a restaurant) is a tough job to do, but when you get success you feel happy. When people like it, you feel happy. That kind of happiness money can not buy."

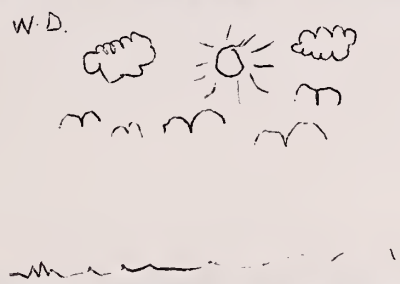
It is important to Jack that food in his restaurant be affordable, and healthy. Jack thinks that restaurant meal prices in the Orange area must average $2 less than to the east. In this area people can't go out and eat as often. "That's why I like for the people to come here. Chinese food is less expensive and good food. Chinese food is very different from American eating. You cannot just eat beef until you are full. You must eat some chicken, some rice, some vegetable. Eat a little fish. Everyone needs the vitamins from all kinds of food, a little of this, a little of that. If you eat Chinese food, I guarantee you will be very healthy."

Jack was clear to welcome people with specific dietary needs and preferences. He invites people to feel comfortable asking questions about the menu or to request special preparation.

The new nearby Chinese food can be had 7 days a week, with take-out too.

Next issue we head west to T.J.'s Pizza in Erving center!

Myron & Kathy BECKER



"WENDELL WAKE UP"- I LOVE YOU

BY: Carolyne D. Carey
Pen Name "Country Mouse"

In the 1920's Ralph & Leola Carey moved to Wendell from Connecticut. The first home they bought was located across from the Wendell Parsonage, a small home which was later sold to Rudolph Gerstid. Then they bought the Center House in the early 1930's. Their son John was maybe 2 years old in 1938. They called the new location "Carey's Market".

They were in the Mill business as well as a local store and Citgo gas station. Most of Ralph's friends called him "Club" Carey. The store and large home was used for many a friend and relatives on all occasions.

Ralph & Leola both worked hard at trying to keep Wendell a good place to live. Many a day at the store, some child would skip over during recess for penny candy, and he'd always ask about their day. If things were OK. You see at that time Wendell was pretty much closely married, you had relatives everywhere. (Many Carey's, Paulings, Clarks, Wilders, Richetts, Pratts, Ellis, Bardsleys, Wetherbys Hartjens, Goddards, Gustals, Lewis and Ballaus.). The town was closely knit.

I was to marry their son John in 1958. Our 1st apartment was in "Carey's Market" upstairs, a lovely 4 room but the 5th room was kept open for a nomad.

Leola always believed in giving a person a meal or bed for the night if they told her of their need. In 1960 we moved to the Parsonage. I remember "Club" telling me the house is too big and John was in the Army overseas. There was no water, no bathroom and he said it was too much for one woman and a small child to live in and stay with us instead, but I took the challange. The Wendell Parsonage was beautiful in my eyes. It had housed many a poor preachers family. While in the attic above the old long kitchen I found an old Bible which I still have to this day. It was partly charred from a fire but beautiful no less. King James version printed in 1857 with a lot of pasted information in it.

"Club" ran the store, gas station with a strict hand. But credit was never found. If you could not pay, he'd trade or barter. He believed a hard days work was the honest way. Little money could go a long way. On several occasions he'd invite a friend to try his home made beer in the barn's milkroom, where he had a few cows. Milk was not all that had been kept cooled. Many a temper got cooled too. Many a foe that felt he may have gotten a raw deal later became a friend. I can't remember him not caring about Wendell future, always involved in the politics of the town, Police department, and also brave enough to state his opinion. He'd often say "if you don't agree, don't sit home on voting day". He was always concerned with the town providing and meeting the peoples needs. If you could provide a service for the town you could survive and never have to leave the town. He left "church" business to Leola, his wife, and she was always a faithful servant to the Wendell Congregational Church and many others. I do believe that they would cry to know that Wendell's church is a thing of the past. The heart of Wendell is closed. No congregation fo Wendell's people. To all Wendell people who have been there befor you and that have helped build a community I am truly saddened.. NO church, NO parsonage, NO community places where a person can go. Where does a person go to fill their spiritual needs? Not in Wendell.

"Wendell Wake Up", I still love you.

Do something today, open the doors to you church -- hire a minister or die without hope for the Heart of Wendell. Jesus is knocking at your door, Wendell. Where do you honor your dead, marry your children, bury your loved ones? and why, why, why, is the circle broken?

Ralph Carey used to have a saying --- "the cream always rises to the top - go to Wendell - the top of the hills"

Merry X-Mas Wendell.

P.S. If I can give you more information to help the Historical Society, write me at 167 E. Main St. - Apt. 2 - Orange, MA. and ask town grandmothers and grandfathers to tell you about Wendell.

JAMES R. SAWYER
Special Agent
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Office: (413) 772-0238
Residence: (617) 544-6860
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≈ANNOUNCEMENTS≈

AUDITIONS FOR "STOUT OF HEART"

Auditions for the musical "Stout of Heart" will be held on Thursday, February 8 and on Saturday, February 10 at the New Salem Town Hall. The Thursday evening audition at 7:30 p.m. is for adults only; Saturday morning 9:30 a.m. to noon is for young people ages 8-16 only; and Saturday afternoon, 1:30 p.m. is for adults.

The cast will include two girls ages 10-14, one or two middle aged women, one or two older women, and two men of any age. There will also be a chorus. All individuals auditioning should bring a short scene presentation(1-3 minutes maximum) and a song. A copy of the script is available at the New Salem Library.

"Stout of Heart" is based on the history of the North Quabbin region. It weaves a fictional story about the life of Geneva, a New Salem woman of vigor and curiousity. Geneva lives to see parts of her own surrounding towns flooded for the creation of the Quabbin reservior and watches as the town transforms into the "modern age" with the introduction of the telephone and airplane and the loss of the beloved Rabbit Run train.

The pageant will be a separate event to be held on opening night before the play. The public will be invited to tour the town common and witness "the stout of heart" in various scenes depicting town history. Participants in the pageant will attend eight performance workshops led by Erin Williams and other trained performing artists and craftspeople. Sign up for the workshops will be in March and will be announced in local papers.

This project is funded in part by the Massachusetts Council of the Arts and Humanities, a state agency, the New Salem Academy Trustees, the New Salem, Orange and Wendell Arts Lottery programs and other community agencies. For further information call Erin Williams 508-544-2643 or Ellie Voutselas 508-544-7535.

SELF DEFENSE CLASS

The Wendell Recreation Committee is sponsoring a workshop entitled "Self Defense for Women and Girls". The course will meet at Swift River School, 7-8:30pm, for seven Wednesdays beginning March 14. Participants will learn to use mental, verbal, and physical skills to increase their personal safety.

"Self Defense for Women and Girls" will be taught by Chris Wings of Wendell. Chris has been teaching self defense and karate since 1985. She earned her black belt in Shuri Ryu karate at Valley Women's Martial Arts in Easthampton, MA. She also studies Modern Arnis, a Filipino stick fighting art.

Participants in "Self Defense for Women and Girls" must be at least 12 years old. The fee for the course is $24. Class size is limited. To register or for more information call Chris Wings at 544-8985.

GOODS GIVEAWAY

Save your "useables" no longer used at your home for a Goods Giveaway on the town common sometime this spring. Look for date and details in next Wendell Post!

JOB?

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT:
MYRON'S NO. 1 YAKITORI is looking for an energetic, honest, responsible, carefull, hygienic, dependable non-smoker, 16 or over, part time assistant. Must be able to work occasional weekends away from home and work with meat. Call Kathy or Myron, 544 2086.

"WOODS, WATER, AND WILDLIFE"

Bob Ellis would like everyone to know that a colliction of his watercolor paintings will be on exhibit at The Coffee Club in downtown Greenfield throughout February. According to Bob, there will be 9 works of various sizes, most of which will be for sale. The Coffee Club is on Miles Street and is open 8-5:30 Mon-Thurs and 8-9pm Friday. Closed Sunday.

The Gift Shop

DOLLS TOYS potpourri puzzles

HANDMADE CRAFTS

JEWELRY Unique Hand-Painted SILKS Balloons

HOURS
2:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Tuesday - Saturday
at Wendell Country Store
WENDELL, MA 01379

"THE GIFT SHOP"
NEW BUSINESS IN WENDELL

There's a new business in town called "The Gift Shop". It's located at the Wendell Country Store (snuggled between the store and the house) and features handcrafted gift items, most of which are made by local artists and craftspeople. There are also balloons, kites, incense and many other items to round out the selection a bit.

An added feature is a sewing and alteration service with custom made clothing a specialty. I have excellent references and 40 years of experience sewing everything from patches to wedding gowns. My prices are fair and barter is always an option.

Stop in, have a cup of tea and check it out.

♡ Rosalie

WENDELL VOLUNTEERS

Just over a year ago I saw an article in the Wendell Post concerning a new project that Susan Dunlany had begun. It involved recruiting volunteers to help the Town of Wendell with work projects that were outside the realm of duties performed by town employees or others that were already volunteering for the town. It sounded like a great idea.

Over the past year volunteers have really put their best into helping the town. Folks who I know are busy with life's never ending chores have somehow made the time to help out. Fixing a voting booth in disrepair, the RATS metal sorting days, making two white crosses for unknown soldiers in town cemeteries, designing a bulletin board for the Town Hall, xeroxing ... these are some of the projects that folks have helped out with. All are worthwhile and have created a positive change in this community.

Town decisions and politics are far from perfect (I think), and the world is not perfect (that I know) so take a step towards helping both out and volunteer. We have forty names currently listed for volunteer work, but more are needed in order to make this idea work. If you would like to have your name on the volunteer list, call me at 544-8846 or send your name and mailing address to me at Box 175. Thank you.

Claudia Pommer
Volunteer Coordinator

BRADSHAW ON: THE FAMILY

Bradshaw on: The Family, a PBS Video Series Starting February 11, Sundays at 7 p.m. at Lake Grove Maple Valley

This 11 week series focuses on the dynamics of the family, how the rules and attitudes learned while growing up become encoded within each family member. As 96% of all families are to some degree emotionally impaired, the unhealthy rules we are now living by are handed down from one generation to another and ultimately to society. Our society is sick because our families are sick. And our families are sick because we are living by inherited rules we never wrote.

This series is important, very revealing and heartening.

FREE! Come to all or any of the episodes. Call Joyce at 544-8457 for more information.

DR. PAUL A. KOWACKI
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Kate Gilday
consultation in: - herbal medicine
- women's well being
- herbs for children
- acute & chronic ailments
sliding fee scale $15-$25/hr
call 544-2121

≈POETRY BY MAPLE VALLEY STUDENTS≈

Theme from "If Wishes Were Horses, Beggars Would Ride" by Eve Merriam

I'm labeled a bum.
I come from the slums.
My family ditched me,
Left me not even a crumb.

At night it gets cold
In this cardboard box.
I don't have as much
As a pair of clean sox.

The end of life is near;
I'll pop another beer.
My brain feels like
I's in locks.

Eric Newhall

DEATH

Now it's time to end a period of hate and fight,
Because everyone argues all through the night.
Now it's time to start a period of peace and happiness,
But everyone argues with death nevertheless.

Steve Petroplous
Steve Petropolous

Night Walk

It is a quiet night in town.
I am making my rounds.
People stop to say Hi.
They also stop by to
Check out the streets.
There is a low beat.
I enjoy it a lot
It gives me thoughts.

Andy Boucher

Struggle

$60.00 sneakers and I gots no job.
Let me tell you how it is
When times are hard.

Pockets emptied every weekend and I got no dough
In order to get myself back up
The river I have to row.

So get out there and be a man.
Give yourself a goal and achieve all you can.

Shawn Harper

Must
You

Trash
Our
Wonderful
Neighborhood?

Jessy Gareau

Chris Michaud

My family
Yells

Fights
Argues &
Mostly
It
Loves each other
Ya!

My
Yellow

House is
Owned by
Us & the bank who owns the
Street &
Everyone -- -- family

My street has
Yellow

Signs & great big
Trees with
Railroad tracks
Everywhere
Except at the
Town house duplex's

My town is
Yucky because

Too much
Odor
With the
Neighbors

James Leason

Two
Old
Women
Nap

Children
In
The
Yard

Sex
Thugs
Roar within
Everyone
Everywhere
Tonight

Home
On
Monday
Evening

Help me
On
My
Environment.

Here is
Our
Untouched
Salary and
Earnings.

Billy Kinney

Crime
Infested
Time to take action
Yell for help

Totally
Outraged
Wonder what to do?
Now!

Aaron Frick

Joe Purpura

Happiness
Over
Many
Events

Move
Your

Chrysanthemums
Into
The
Yard

Cows
On
Undiscovered
Native
Territory
Raise
Young

Such
Traffic
Racing
Every
Eternal
Trace

Having
Our
Unique
System ...
Eating

Steve Darby

Mark Fleury

Terrific
Often
Will
Never become boring or dull

Has alot
Of acres of field in the back yard
Unbelievable
Spectacular
Even though it's a town house complex

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RUDE GIRLS

FEB 10

JOYFUL MUSIC AND "SILLINESS" ENCOURAGING THEIR AUDIENCES TO CAST OFF THE CHAINS OF "NICENESS"

TO BENEFIT

MILLERS RIVER MONITORING PROJ.

FORTALEZA

☆☆MARCH 10☆☆

TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY FOLK MUSIC OF THE ANDES.

TO BENEFIT

NICARAGUA WALK TO WITNESS NICA

FRED KOLLER

☆☆APRIL 7☆☆

"ONE OF NASHVILLE'S MOST PROLIFIC—OFF THE WALL—SONGWRITERS."

TO BENEFIT

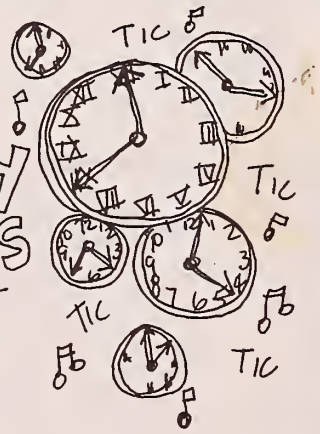
FRANKLIN COUNTY PROGRESSIVE NETWORK

MAY 12

HOLIDAY CLOCKS

TO BENEFIT

VILLAGE FOOD CO-OP



JUN 9

SUN DOGS

DANCE HOT BOOGIE

TO BENEFIT

COFFEEHOUSE COMMITTEE

SCOTT SMITH - "THE WAY IT IS"

It's here! The new album that everyone's been waiting for. Find out for yourself why the Coffee Kingdom says, "Scott Smith is destined to become one of America's foremost singer/songwriters", and why Richard Goulis, founder of the Worcester Artist Group said: "Scott Smith's music brings to light a myriad of images. These songs demonstrate a keen awareness of mankind's problems and an incurable optimism which transcends their foreboding. They strive to allow us as listeners to see, for once, truly, the way it is. A great tape for any collection!"

THE WAY IT IS

The very first notes that come form Scott Smith's accoustic guitar will flow like a gentle stream into your heart and soul. His new album, "The Way It Is", offers a gentle and compassionate guitar along with stirring lyrics and powerful vocals.

The title tract is a grim look on the future of today. Smith focuses on such issues as the homeless, television evangelists and corruption in politics. In his gentle yet stimulating tone, he tells how he is unwilling to accept the practices of today, that it is time for change.

"Picture of Mary" is probably the most powerful song on the album. It is the story of a young girl who runs away to prostitutio and ends up being killed. Sadly, the story represents the plight and deprivation of many children across the United States.

"Leon" is a touching song about a hard-working man who waives his dream of travel for the reality of his wife and children. Yet Scott leaves us on a content note when he sings, "Some dreams are not meant to be realized; They just help keep your feet on the ground".

Another song about the laborous day-to-dayness of life's routine, "Just the Same", is a heart-wrenching piece about a man who commits suicide when he realizes that his life is unfulfilling and may never change. Scott's lyrics put a knot in the stomach of any listener who will stop to ponder about his or her own role in this, the game of life.

In the last piece on the album, Scott leaves us with an optimistic outlook as to where the world is heading on its "Road to Freedom".

"The Way It Is" is an eye opening and thought provoking work of musical inspiration. Scott Smith is unquestionably a brilliant singer/songwriter/musician who brings forth a soul searching sound that is as real and as pure as they come. "The Way It Is" is available through Scott himself. Send a check or money order for $8.00, (includes shipping and handling) to:

Scott Smith
136 Endicott Street
Worcester, MA 01610

Make check payable to Scott Smith.

I suggest that you sit down in a dimly lit, cozy room with your newly purchased "The Way It Is" album and a nice cup of tea and relax, listen, and ponder about what you hear and feel in scott Smith's words and music.

Jennifer Leclerc

COFFEEHOUSE SPECIAL

APR 14

ZOE LEWIS

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOON!

TO BENEFIT: MOONDALA WOMANS GROUP

TOWN OF WENDELL MASSACHUSETTS 01379

TOWN HALL 508 544 3395

WHAT ARE THE SPECIAL PLACES IN WENDELL? "A PLACES OF THE HEART SURVEY"

By the end of February a survey will be distributed to all Wendell residents in an effort to gather a picture of what makes Wendell a special place to live. The goal is to enable us *"to preserve Wendell's valued landscapes, community places, traditions, and way of life"* even as Wendell changes and will certainly change in the future. The survey is a product of work begun last Fall with the support of a $19,875 Rural Design Assistance Grant awarded to the Town in August by the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities.

The intent of this project is to give every resident, in everyday language, a voice in pointing out places in Wendell about which they have strong feelings. The kinds of places may include a view, a special building, a gathering place, or an event without which Wendell would not feel like the same place. Responses will be sought from every citizen old enough to fill out the questionnaire.

The project is being organized by a Grant Steering Committee of citizens and Town officials. Landscape architects and planners from the Conway Design Associates of Conway, Massachusetts are assisting the Committee. Together they tested the survey on a group of Wendell officials at a December All-Board meeting. Several revisions of the survey have been made since that time.

What is *different* about this survey is that the intent is to have the citizens of Wendell draw their own conclusions and to develop their own picture of the town. This is unlike some planning studies that frequently depend on objective measurements from outside sources of information to tell a town what it looks like.

For example, per capita income is a common statistic used in planning studies to evaluate a community and to compare it to other communities. Does per capita income mean the same thing in Wendell as it does in other places, even when the numbers are the same for each community? What other things about Wendell might speak more directly about the meaning of living in Wendell than this simple statistic? It is these other things that are the subject of this survey.

With this project, we clearly aim to provide an opportunity to tell each other in the most plain, the most deliberate, *or* the most fanciful way what we value about the Wendell landscape and how we feel about living here. We especially want our children to join this effort. They can often catch things that adults overlook. More importantly, it is likely that much of the Wendell we make today will be the place where our children will live tomorrow. We assume that their commitment to living in that future Wendell will depend on whether it meets expectations they have even now.

Similarly, the ways our older citizens see Wendell today are important, because of their views reflect the Wendell of the past. A critical part of understanding what we are now, is knowing what happened in the past and knowing how and why Wendell used to look the way it did. What are the important parts of our past that make up the town we value now?

The survey will be made up of two parts. The first will be several pages of questions to answer, mostly fill-in-the-blank. Additional thoughts and comments will be welcomed -- including questions that the survey neglected to ask. The second part will be a map section where survey participants can mark the spot(s) that they feel are important places and indicate how and why they are special.

The **Places of the Heart** survey will be the first part of this planning project. The second part will be a **Vision Workshop**, held at the end of March, where citizens will be invited to consider the information gathered from the survey and use it to draw a picture of how Wendell might change in a way that preserves it's *"valued landscapes, community places, traditions, and way of life"*, the goal of this project.

From the survey and the workshop, a report will be written to establish a record of the places we are telling each other are important to protect. We can use this record as a pattern for making decisions about Wendell's future. The report will be available to everyone who requests a copy.

****

Every resident's participation is critical for the success of this project!

To make filling out the survey even more special, the steering committee is planning to combine the survey with a **RAFFLE**.

To be eligible for the raffle you need only fill out the survey and return it. The Steering Committee is still seeking **IDEAS and DONATIONS** for the **RAFFLE.**

The big prize will be the opportunity to share your hopes and concerns about the Wendell that is valuable to us all.

VOLUNTEERS will be needed to distribute and gather the survey. Also, help will be needed to organize, to entertain, and to feed the participants of the "Vision Workshop" in March. **VOLUNTEERS**

**** If you can help please call Kathleen Ramsey or Janice Barrett, the Town's administrative assistants at the Town Hall (4-3395) OR any member of the Grant Steering Committee: Danny Bacigalupo, Jean Forward, Steve Gross, Michael Idoine, Kim Noyes, Mason Phelps, or Prudy Smith ****